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Approved For Release 2004/10/27 : CIA-RDP58-00597A000100200010-0

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Legislative Counsel

DATE: 22 June 1956

FROM : Acting Ch/D/E/RR

SUBJECT: Fountain Subcommittee Inquiry for CIA Information on Linseed Oil

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1. This memorandum will amplify [ ] telephone call of this morning to you in which he reported that ONI was preparing an inquiry to CIA for advice as to whether [ ] 13 September 1954, can be released to the Fountain Subcommittee. We have requested a copy of this report and will deliver it to you upon receipt by us.

2. This is not the same report discussed by you with Mr. Ashcraft. Although we have not seen it, it apparently indicates that the commodities in question were not in strong demand by the USSR.

3. I have ascertained the following from LCDR DOYLE, (131 x 76313), who is the ONI action officer and who attended the White House meeting on an earlier aspect of the Fountain Subcommittee inquiry:

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- a. The Secretary of the Navy wrote the Subcommittee on 15 June 1956 responding to the initial inquiry of the latter, and a copy of the Navy letter was forwarded to Commerce per the White House agreement.
  - b. The Subcommittee replied to the Navy's letter with their own, also dated 15 June 1956, asking whether Navy had information in their files which originated from any other Agency. CIA or CIA reports were not specified.
  - c. LCDR DOYLE sent a draft reply to the Navy's Congressional Liaison office on 20 June 1956, stating that ONI did have such information, but not identifying either CIA or any CIA report number. This draft reply advised that Navy would inquire as to whether such information could be made available to the Subcommittee. DOYLE states that he spent 1-1/2 days culling the ONI files and concluded that the above report [ ] was the only pertinent item therein from CIA.

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- d. LCDR DOYLE advised me today that he was preparing a routine memorandum to this Agency inquiring as to our willingness to make this information available.

4. I have arranged with DOYLE that he will notify me when his memorandum is signed and ready for transmission to CIA. I will have OCR Liaison pick it up and deliver it to you. I advised DOYLE that action in CIA rested in your office in such matters. I expressed the opinion that CIA would not be willing to have Navy make available to the Subcommittee either the number or the contents of this report, and I cited the "third agency rule" with which DOYLE is familiar.

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Acting Chief, D/E/RR

c.c. Acting Ch/C/RR

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